

MINUTES OF THE BLOOMINGTON TOWNSHIP BOARD

The meeting was called to order at 5:30 p.m. on September 5, 2013 at 2111 West Vernal Pike.

Board members present were Dawn Allen, Barbara McKinney and Bill Sturbaum. Also present were Trustee Lillian Henegar, Chief Faron Livingston, and Deputy Trustee Lisa Phillips.

AGENDA

Dawn moved to accept the agenda as presented. Bill seconded, motion passed unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

Bill moved to accept the minutes of the August 22 board meeting. Dawn seconded, motion passed unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS

None.

NEW BUSINESS

2014 Budget Public Hearing:

Lillian announced we received the estimate from the Department of Local Government Finance (DLGF) for the 2014 County Option Income Tax (COIT). They are projecting we will receive \$414,514. Lillian reported our net assessed values have been forwarded to us by the auditor's office. Rural assessed values came in higher than we estimated in our budget preparation. The total assessed value came in a little lower, but not enough that it is necessary to change the proposed budget.

Dawn Allen passed out a statement objecting to the proposed salaries for the Trustee and Deputy Trustee. (See attached.) Dawn then read her prepared statement. Dawn believes the funds designated for township raises should be used to fund an additional part time firefighter to cover the night shift, or to possibly allow a 3% increase for all employees. Bill reiterated he believes percentages are a short cut used for ease, and he does not feel there is a problem with the proposed salaries because the amounts are in line with the salaries of other townships in Monroe County. Barbara stated the previous trustees were underpaid and we are trying to correct that. Bill pointed out board members received a large percentage increase last year in order to make their salaries comparable to other townships in Monroe County. Lillian asked if township funds could be used to fund another firefighter and Lisa explained the levies for fire and township are separate, and any savings realized from reducing township raises cannot be moved to the fire budget. Chief Livingston stated he agreed with Bill regarding percentages. He feels percentage increases only widen the gap between higher and lower paid staff. Lillian defended the proposed

increase for the Deputy Trustee; the pay for this position needs to be in line with other townships and with the level of responsibility. Barbara defended the proposed increase for the Trustee due to the level of responsibility and the fact that the trustee salary did not increase for the 2013 budget year. Bill pointed out this is a good year to adjust the salaries because of the increase in COIT and the way the numbers worked out during the budget process.

Barbara addressed the gentleman who arrived during the budget discussion and asked if he had any comments. He stated he just wanted to listen to the discussion. Bill pointed out we need to remember there are different dedicated funds, and those lines cannot be crossed. The public asked what percentage increase the firefighters are getting and Barbara and Lillian confirmed it is 2%. It was then asked where the funding came from to allow 11% increases for the township staff. Lisa stated that a full time position had been eliminated and replaced by a part time position with no benefits. It was asked if the tax rate is going up and Bill replied the rate will actually be lower for 2014 than 2013. Bill stated the budget is very clear and well prepared.

2014 Benton Township Contract:

Lillian stated the only change to the contract was the amount, which increased to \$76,000. Bill moved to approve the Benton Township contract. Dawn seconded, motion passed unanimously. The board members and Trustee signed the contract.

2014 Washington Township Contract:

Lillian reported the contract increase to \$94,600. Barbara moved to approve the Washington Township contract. Bill seconded, motion passed unanimously. The board members and Trustee signed the contract.

REPORTS

Trustee:

Lillian announced she has appointed Township Board President, Barbara McKinney, to act as Deputy Trustee during the absence of the Trustee and Deputy Trustee from September 23-25 while they are attending the Indiana Township Association (ITA) Educational Conference.

Lillian reported we received a large food delivery from The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP) and we were also able to obtain a good selection of items from the food bank. In light of that, we are postponing the decision to change the frequency of food pantry visits from weekly to biweekly.

Bill moved to adjourn. Barbara seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 6:03 p.m. The next meeting, is scheduled for Thursday, September 26, and will include final 2014 budget approval.